

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ADITS 7
-1E6

5-20

ERS NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 6
DECEMBER 1990/JANUARY 1991



Robinson Named ATAD Director

B.H. (Bob) Robinson has been named director of ERS's Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division, pending final approval by USDA's Office of Personnel.

Robinson, who has been ERS's Associate Administrator since 1986, has been increasingly involved in providing leadership to ERS's trade analysis programs. He leads the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Committee on Agriculture. He is the ERS liaison to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and has directed several cross-divisional trade policy analyses. Robinson has also had overall management responsibility for special ERS programs and teams that provide support and analysis to the Assistant Secretary for Economics.

Robinson began his career with ERS as a field research economist in 1965 and later became research group leader, assistant field research coordinator, and leader of the Aggregate Production Analysis Team.

In 1972, Robinson joined the faculty of Clemson University's Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and became its head in 1982. He was responsible for the leadership and administration of the College of Agriculture's teaching, research, and extension programs in agricultural economics and rural sociology.

Robinson has served as vice president of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, chairman of the National Public Policy Education Committee, and chair of the Southern Public Affairs Committee. He is a member of several professional associations including the American Agricultural Economics Association, Southern Agricultural Economics Association, Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also served as a consultant to several public agencies and private firms and was appointed by former Secretary of Agriculture John Block to the National Costs of Production Review Board.

Robinson has a B.S. from Berea College, an M.S. from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. from Clemson University.

ERS Supports FNS

ERS researchers have responded to a request by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service for assistance in estimating changes in the costs of foods included in the basket of foods for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). FNS uses estimates of food costs in preparing budget allocations and advising the States about future program costs. In response to the request, ERS economist David Smallwood (219-0866) is coordinating the development of forecasting models for WIC food baskets based on estimates of prices for orange juice, dairy products, peanut butter, and infant formula. ERS is coordinating USDA's effort with the Food and Drug Administration to contract for foodstore price data needed for the forecasting data base.

Smallwood is also providing technical support in evaluating a contractor's study of current FNS procedures for forecasting Food Stamp Program (FSP) participation rates. Because participation in the program was higher than anticipated during the past year,

See FNS, p. 4

In this issue . . .

Current Research, 2
Administrator's Letter, 3
Personnel Notes, 4
Highlights of Staff Activities, 6

Current Research

ERS Analyzes Effects of Conservation Reserve Program

Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 authorized the conservation reserve program (CRP), the current centerpiece of USDA's agricultural conservation efforts. Nearly 34 million acres of highly erodible or environmentally sensitive cropland have been enrolled in the CRP since 1986. The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 extends the program through 1995.

Since the CRP began, ERS researchers have analyzed options for implementation, assessed the program's economic effects, and examined CRP options for the future. Additionally, ERS economists have monitored the progress of the CRP, maintained an electronic data base available to the public, and published a series of ERS statistical bulletins. The most recent, *The Conservation Reserve Program: Enrollment Statistics for Signup Periods 1-9 and Fiscal Year 1989* (SB-811) by Tim Osborn (219-0403), Felix Llacuna, and Michael Linsenbigler, presents regional and State information on acres enrolled, acres planted to trees, acres of wetland, rental payments, erosion reductions, commodity base reductions, and conservation practices installed.

Earlier research by Michael Dicks and Katherine Reichelderfer, *Choices for Implementing the Conservation Reserve* (AIB-507), examined impacts of making various lands eligible for enrollment, setting area acreage allotments, and selecting bids based on various criteria. They found that program performance depended more on implementation than on the actual number of acres enrolled in the program.

Clayton Ogg, Marcel Aillery, and Marc Ribaudó (219-0444) analyzed

CRP benefits and costs resulting from the inclusion of different categories of environmentally sensitive cropland in *Implementing the Conservation Reserve Program: Analysis of Environmental Options* (AER-618). Enrolling erodible cropland in watersheds with pollution problems and cropped wetlands was found to be most effective in increasing the net benefits of the CRP. Enrolling irrigated land in areas of ground water depletion or with salinity problems would, alternatively, result in significant environmental benefits, but at high costs, because most irrigated land is highly productive.

Ribaudó and others estimated the value of CRP benefits to surface water quality, soil productivity, air quality, wildlife habitat, and ground water supplies in *Natural Resources and Users Benefit from the Conservation Reserve Program* (AER-627). He found that a 45-million-acre CRP would generate \$6 billion to \$14 billion in natural resource and environmental benefits.

ERS researchers Edwin Young and Tim Osborn coordinated an overall economic assessment of the CRP in *The Conservation Reserve Program: An Economic Assessment* (AER-626). Results of this analysis, done before the 1988 drought, indicated that the partial net economic benefits of a 45-million-acre CRP would range from \$3 billion to \$11 billion in present value. Net government costs for the program were estimated at between \$2 billion and \$6 billion.

In a more recent analysis, "A Fresh Look at the CRP," *Agricultural Outlook* (AO-166, Aug. 1990), Tim Osborn and Kazim Konyar reestimated the effects of the CRP in light of the current level of enrollment and the commodity price impacts stemming from the uneven weather of the past few years. Their analysis indicates that a 34-million-acre CRP could produce net economic benefits within the range previously estimated. However, net government outlays are now

estimated to be higher, mainly because drought-induced price increases lessened potential commodity program savings that might otherwise have been attributed to the CRP.

ERS economists have also analyzed factors influencing CRP participation, effects of allowing drought emergency haying and grazing of CRP grassland, and the potential for expanding the CRP to achieve greater water quality improvements.

ERS research is now focusing on the fate of CRP land following contract expiration, including the relative benefits of keeping land out of production versus allowing it to return to production under adequate stewardship and management. ERS researchers are also investigating implementation options for new conservation provisions established under the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and the interactions and tradeoffs between long-term cropland retirement provisions and annual acreage reduction programs.

ERS Newsletter

Vol. 8, No. 6, Dec. 1990/Jan. 1991

Editors:

Verla Rape and Lindsay Mann

Layout and Design:

Susan Yanero

Publication Assistant:

Gwen Matlock

Photos (unless credited):

Susan Yanero

Division Representatives:

William Anderson,

Arthur Dommen, William Edmondson,

Charles Hallahan, and

Kathryn Lipton

The *ERS Newsletter* is published bi-monthly by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed free to ERS employees, colleagues, and retirees. Send subscription requests and address changes to: *ERS Newsletter*, ERS/USDA, Rm. 1212, 1301 New York Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20005-4788 (phone 202-219-0310, fax 202-219-0044).

Administrator's Letter—*Rethinking How We Serve*

Each fall our program analyst, Verla Rape, works with the four program divisions to pull together examples of accomplishments in the preceding fiscal year. These accomplishment summaries are used in our annual budget submission to the Congress, Secretary of Agriculture's annual report to the President, and several other places.



The examples for FY 1990 are impressive. They reveal that the people of ERS are dealing with the critical issues of the day and that our work has improved the knowledge base pertaining to those issues. I encourage ERS staff and colleagues to review the material. Verla will provide a copy to each branch and division office and to our friends outside ERS on request.

ERS's program is mandated by the Congress, executed under the auspices of USDA, and funded entirely by taxpayers. We exist to improve the performance of agriculture and the rural economy in serving the public interest. We do that primarily by providing information that enhances understanding of agricultural, rural, and resource markets and developments and the consequences of alternative policies, technologies, and other real and potential events. If the information we produce is valid, transparent (not misleading), and timely and effectively disseminated, then policymakers, farmers, business managers, consumers, voters, and others can make more enlightened decisions.

We can improve the quality, focus, and effectiveness of what we do. I intend to spend a major portion of my time in 1991 working with each division to reevaluate ERS's program—from research priorities to publications.

Why is this an appropriate time for some introspection? First, ERS and its basic programs were born out of the rural and agricultural problems of the early and mid-20th century. We are in the decade that will bridge us into the 21st century. American agriculture and its role in the rural, U.S., and global economies has changed. Society's concerns about agriculture and society's expectations of the ERS program have also changed.

Second, on April 3, 1991, ERS will be 30 years old. Before the end of 1990, I will announce the appointment of a 30th anniversary program committee. That committee will assist me in planning and implementing an appropriate set of anniversary activities. The general theme of the year-long set of activities will be "ERS—Roots and Visions." The "roots" part of the program will be designed to familiarize and remind us all of the evolution, history, roles, and impacts of social science research in USDA, including that in the BAE, ERS, and other agencies. The "visions" activities will give us a chance to consider opportunities and challenges that can shape our future. I believe the "ERS—Roots and Visions" activities can be enjoyable and, at the same time, useful to the ongoing reevaluation of our program.

The year ahead promises to be busy and exciting. But, before we leave the old year, I want to thank each one of you in ERS and our colleagues and supporters in USDA, universities, the private sector, and elsewhere for your contributions that have made 1990 another good year for ERS.

Best wishes to each of you for the holiday season and for the coming year. May the season find you in good health and at peace with yourself and your neighbors. May your new year be productive and fulfilling.


John Lee

Forage Values and Grazing Fees Analyzed

ERS researchers have periodically estimated forage values on public lands since 1979. USDA's Forest Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management use the information for policy analysis and in various mandated studies. For example, the Resource Planning Act requires estimates of forage values for the FS and environmental impact statements for BLM. Both agencies have also requested ERS staff support ranging from data to forecasting fee levels under various legislative proposals.

ERS economists William Hahn, Terry Crawford, and Kenneth Nelson (219-1284) have published *Estimating Forage Values for Grazing National Forest Lands* (AGES 89-51), which analyzes forage values for the eight FS regions with grazing. Using linear programming analysis of the cost and availability of forage for a typical permit holder in the small, medium, and large size categories, the maximum value of forage to permit-holder ranchers was estimated for four different price patterns for inputs and cattle prices to represent both short- and long-run conditions. Permit holders could pay additional grazing fees in the short run rather than reduce their herd sizes. However, this option is not sustainable. Ranchers in many regions would move their herd back to nonpublic land in the long run. Producers with an above-average dependency on Federal land for their forage supply would leave the business.

Grazing fees are set by Executive Order. Some interest groups have periodically sought legislated changes in the process for setting grazing fees in an effort to lower fees or (more often) to raise fees to approach their open-market value or at least government costs.

Recent attempts to change fees through the appropriations process for the Department of the Interior have renewed interest in the issue.

Nutrition Education Has Little Effect on Fat Consumption

Since the mid-1950's, considerable effort has been devoted to informing Americans about the adverse health effects associated with a high-fat diet. The effectiveness of these education efforts has been assessed by their ability to increase the public's awareness. By this measure, these programs have been successful. Surveys indicate that awareness of the possible health risks of a diet high in fat has increased dramatically over time.

To assess how greater awareness has actually translated into dietary changes, ERS economists Dan Putler and Betsy Frazao (219-0866) have undertaken an analysis of the effects of nutrition information programs on fat intake and dietary sources of fat. Using 1977 and 1985 USDA data on individual food intake, they found that individuals with better access to nutrition information programs made greater changes in their dietary sources of fat. However, these individuals did not greatly reduce their overall fat intake compared with individuals with less access to information, because they traded one source of fat for another. Nutrition education programs also affect the diets of all consumers indirectly because of manufacturer changes in product formulation brought about by consumer awareness. The results of Putler and Frazao's work will be published in the proceedings from a June 1990 Food Safety Conference and in a forthcoming issue of the *National Food Review*.

FNS, from p. 1

Congress added funds to the original appropriation. Both FSP and WIC program costs are increasing because of higher food costs and greater participation levels. Projections of the level of economic activity and food prices are critical to the budgeting process because about half of USDA's budget goes for food assistance programs.

These activities expand the routine support ERS provides FNS in several other areas, including analysis of economic indicators to support other food assistance programs.

Personnel Notes

Blaylock Is New Section Leader in CED

James Blaylock has been named leader, Food Demand Research Section, Food Marketing and Consumption Economics Branch, Commodity Economics Division.



Blaylock, who joined ERS's Food Demand Research Section in 1979, has conducted numerous research studies on quantifying how household characteristics are related to food purchases, participation in the Food Stamp Program, and decisions to produce food at home. He coauthored, with David Smallwood, *U.S. Demand for Food: Household Expenditures, Demographics, and Projections* (TB-1713), which provides a benchmark for long-range food demand projections.

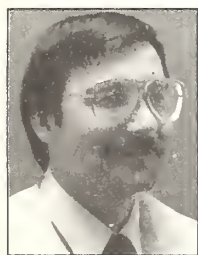
Blaylock's current research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of cheese advertising, economic effects of more accurate

cost-of-living indexes, economic effects of alternative measures of poverty, and linking consumption behavior to health concerns. He has been a member of the executive committee of NEC-63 regional research project on generic advertising.

Blaylock has a B.A. in economics from Sacramento State College and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California (Davis). He has received three ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards, two for research on food demand and one for research on food consumption.

Weimar Is New Section Leader in CED

Mark Weimar is the new leader, Dairy Research Section, Livestock,



Dairy, and Poultry Branch, Commodity Economics Division.

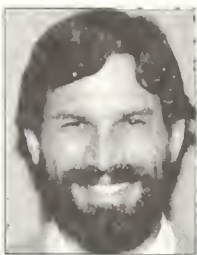
Weimar joined ERS in 1987 as a poultry analyst responsible for

outlook and research with emphasis on improving forecasts and converting the poultry data base to a personal computer version. In 1989, he became a cross-commodity analyst with his research and outlook responsibilities expanded to include beef, pork, and dairy. Weimar has recently constructed an annual livestock and poultry model to be used in USDA baseline work. He has also done research on horticulture, fisheries, beef and cattle feedlots, and customs contracts in beef.

Weimar has a B.S. in agricultural and resource economics from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University. He has received two USDA Certificates of Merit and was corecipient of an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for situation and outlook work.

Moore Named Section Leader in RTD

Michael Moore is the new leader, Water Supply and Demand Section, Water Branch, Resources and Technology Division. The section is responsible for analyzing the factors affecting



the supply of and demand for irrigation water, Federal policy on irrigation water supply from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and competing demands from nonagricultural sectors for water allocation.

Since joining ERS in 1986, Moore has studied economic aspects of ground water depletion, production economics of irrigated agriculture, and water policy issues associated with the Federal Reclamation Program. Moore's analysis of program crop production with reclamation water, "Program Crop Production and Federal Irrigation Water," *Agricultural Resources: Cropland, Water, and Conservation Situation and Outlook Report* (AR-12), contributed to the public dialogue on legislative reform of Federal water and crop subsidies. Moore's work has been published in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Natural Resources Journal*, and *Water Resources Research*.

Moore has a B.A. in economics from the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. in natural resource economics from the University of Michigan. He received three USDA Certificates of Merit and two ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards, one as a member of a study team on the Small Reclamation Projects Act Loan Program and one for situation and outlook work on program crop production with Federal irrigation water.

Buzzanell Is New Section Leader in CED

Peter Buzzanell has been selected leader, Sweeteners Analysis Section, Specialty Agriculture Branch, Commodity Economics Division.



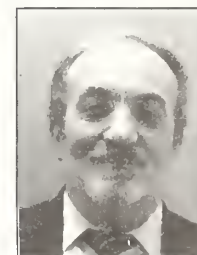
Since coming to ERS in 1988, Buzzanell has

been working on sweeteners analysis. Buzzanell has considerable background as a tropical commodity analyst, particularly in world and U.S. sweetener analysis. During 1984-88, he worked at the Central Intelligence Agency. Buzzanell was employed by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service during 1975-84 and served as the assistant agricultural attaché in Brazil during 1979-81. He previously worked at the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey.

Buzzanell has a B.S. in tropical agriculture from the University of Hawaii, an M.S. in tropical agriculture from the University of Florida, and an M.S. in international public policy from Johns Hopkins University. He was a corecipient of an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for analyzing and disseminating situation and outlook information for sweeteners.

Haidacher Is New Section Leader in CED

Richard Haidacher is the new leader, Food Market Analysis



Section, Food Marketing and Consumption Economics Branch, Commodity Economics Division. He will be responsible for

ERS's efforts to forecast retail food prices and to collect and report

statistics on food consumption, food expenditures, marketing margins, price spreads, and marketing costs.

Since joining ERS in 1972, Haidacher has been involved in a number of activities. He was instrumental in directing and conducting research on the development of a comprehensive cross-commodity econometric model of the U.S. agricultural sector. During 1979-90, he was leader of the Food Demand Research Section, where he coordinated ERS's substantial contributions toward quantifying food demand parameters and their application to a wide range of issues. Haidacher's recent work has been on estimating linkages between retail and farm level prices.

Haidacher, who has a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California (Berkeley), was previously on the faculty at Purdue University.

Ott Is *National Food Review* Editor

Stephen Ott is the new economics editor of ERS's *National Food Review*.

Before joining ERS in 1990, Ott had been an assistant professor at



the University of Georgia since 1984, where his research focused on identifying consumer preferences for various food attributes and

determining the profitability and financial risks of alternative production systems. During 1982-84, Ott was an assistant professor at California State University, Fresno.

Ott has a B.A. in food systems economics and management from Michigan State University and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Ohio State University.

Conway Appointed Director of Energy Office

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has announced the



appointment of ERS economist Roger Conway as director of USDA's Office of Energy. Conway will oversee implementation and coordination

of USDA policies concerning energy use on farms and within USDA.

Conway joined ERS in 1978. In 1986, Conway became section leader of the Productivity and Public Policy Section of the Resources and Technology Division and has led program initiatives to redesign USDA productivity indices and to introduce advances in agricultural production economics into the staff analysis and policymaking process.

Conway has published numerous journal articles on a wide range of economic and econometric topics, including international trade, commodity policy, global warming, agricultural investment, and macroeconomic policy.

Conway has a B.A. in economics from George Washington University, an M.A. in economics from George Mason University, and a Ph.D. in economics from George Washington University. He received four ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards—one for the best article in the *Journal of Agricultural Economics Research*, one for organizing an ERS conference on measuring agricultural productivity, one for preparing *Working in ERS: A Guide for Present and Prospective Employees of the Economic Research Service*, and one for outstanding research that addresses U.S. agricultural programs, farm income, and production levels.

Highlights of Staff Activities

Agriculture and Rural Economy Division

Molly Killian participated in a meeting of the Southern Regional Research Project (S-229), Changing Structure of Local Labor Markets in the Nonmetropolitan Areas: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Implications, in New Orleans, La.

- Chinkook Lee presented a paper, "An Agricultural Development Perspective on Trade Friction: The Case of Three Asian Countries," at an International Conference on Korea Studies, in Osaka, Japan

- Richard Long spoke on the status of rural areas in the Nation and in South Dakota at a meeting of the South Dakota Rural Development Council, in Pierre, S. Dak.
- Sara Mazie spoke on the relationship of the agricultural sector to the rural economy at a Farm Credit Leadership Conference in Des Moines, Iowa
- and John Redman participated in a debate before the Oregon State Legislature on research and development policy as part of the State's overall economic development policy, in Salem, Oreg.

Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

At an African Studies Association meeting in Baltimore, Md., Carl Mabbs-Zeno presented a paper, "International Pressures for Change in Food Aid Allocation to Africa"; Mabbs-Zeno also presented a paper, "How Much Good Is Triangular Food Aid?" (coauthored with Tracy Hart and Maxwell Eseonu, Virginia State University); Liana Neff presented a paper, "African Trade Implications of Potential Changes in the 1990 Farm Bill"; Shahla Shapouri presented a paper, "African Food Aid: Donor Motivation and Allocation Criteria";

and **Mark Wenner** presented a paper, "Moroccan Food Needs Assessment in the 1990's: Scenario Analysis" • **Harry Baumes** was the U.S. delegate to a meeting of the Joint Working Party on Agricultural Policy Markets of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in Paris, France • **Nancy Cochrane** was a panelist at an American Association for Slavic Studies meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Frederick Crook**, on detail to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, traveled to China to observe crop harvests • **John Dyck** presented a paper, "Korea's Potential Role in the Pacific Beef Trade," (coauthored with Jeff Jones, USDA/FAS), at a U.S.-Korean Economic Cooperation symposium sponsored by the Korean-American Economic Association, in Washington, D.C. • **Walter Gardiner** participated in a European Association of Agricultural Economists meeting in The Hague, Netherlands • **Robert Koopman** traveled to four countries in Eastern Europe and spoke on ERS's SWOPSIM model at seminars in the U.S.S.R. • **Peter Liapis** and **John Link** discussed liberalization modeling and the prospects for a U.S.-Mexican free trade agreement with Mexican government officials, Universidad de México staff, and private consultants, and installed ERS's SWOPSIM model, in Mexico City, Mex. • **Carl Mabbs-Zeno** traveled to Jamaica under U.S. Agency for International Development sponsorship to teach analysts from the Planning Institute of Jamaica, a government body, how to calculate producer subsidy equivalents • **Bob Robinson** participated in a working group meeting of the Indo-U.S. Subcommission on Agriculture, in New Delhi, India • **Vernon Roningen** and **Praveen Dixit** traveled to Jamaica to install ERS's SWOPSIM model • **Mathew Shane** participated in a World Food Day observance in Columbia, Mo. • **Shane** also was a principal organizer of a World Bank seminar focusing on the potential benefits of

a U.S.-Mexican free trade agreement, at which **Suchada Langley** spoke on "What U.S. Agricultural Policies Mean for Mexico," **John Link** spoke on "U.S.-Mexico Trade," **Lori Lynch** spoke on "Phytosanitary and Other Nontariff Barriers to Trade," and **Mark Simone** spoke on "How the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement Works" • and **Francis Tuan** traveled to China on a team studying water and land use policies and rural environmental issues.

Commodity Economics Division

Edward Allen, **Larry Van Mier**, **Carolyn Whitton**, and **Edwin Young**, traveled to Egypt to work on a U.S.-Egyptian project to develop an outlook program • **Mark Ash**, **Bengt Hyberg**, and **William Lin** participated in a workshop on "Uniformity by 2000," to provide a common basis for grain grades and standards in international commerce, in Champaign, Ill. • **Peter Buzzanell** traveled to Mexico to meet with government officials involved in sugar production and marketing • **Robert Bohall** spoke on ERS budget prospects for 1991 and 1992 and the current status and plans for livestock, dairy, and poultry research at a Forum for Animal Agriculture meeting, in Arlington, Va. • **Terry Crawford** spoke on livestock issues at an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development meeting • **Charles Handy** prepared a paper and organized a session on "Implications for the U.S. Food Manufacturing Sector" at an EC-1992 conference, in Washington, D.C. • **T.Q. Hutchinson** organized a session, "Should There Be a Federal Center To Coordinate Collection and Distribution of Transportation Data?," and moderated a session, "Air Transportation Safety," at a

Transportation Research Forum meeting in Long Beach, Calif.

• **Lester Myers** participated in a meeting of the Interagency Committee on Nutrition Monitoring to improve Federal efforts to monitor the Nation's nutritional status, in Washington, D.C. • **Patrick O'Brien** spoke on expanded commercialization of new and existing agricultural products at a meeting of the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences in Washington, D.C. • **Tanya Roberts** spoke on the estimates of human illnesses and costs associated with foodborne disease at a Food Safety Technical Standards Workshop in Washington, D.C. • **Mark Smith** presented a paper, "Towards More Development-Oriented Food Aid," at an African Studies Association meeting in Baltimore, Md. • and **Bruce Wright** participated in an Electronic Marketing of Livestock Conference, in Chicago, Ill.

Resources and Technology Division

Eldon Ball participated in a workshop on the role of externalities in the determination of agricultural policy at the Center for Agricultural Strategy, at the University of Reading • **Ball** also spoke on the development of data that will allow measurement of relative rates of agricultural productivity growth at Bonn University and at Eurostat, in Luxembourg • **Richard Brazee** discussed work on climate change, water quality, and tropical deforestation with staff at the University of Alberta • **David Ervin** presented a paper, "The Impacts of Production-Related Subsidies on the Environment," at a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, in Paris, France • at a National Pesticide Research Conference in Richmond, Va., **Walter Ferguson** presented a paper, "Cotton Farmers' Use of Pesticides

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

FIRST CLASS

and Pest Management Practices," and **Parveen Setia** presented two papers, "Effects of Agricultural Pesticide Use Restrictions in the United States" (coauthored with Kenneth Algozin, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and "Adoption of Alternative Management Systems to Improve Water Quality under Uncertainty" (coauthored with **David Letson**) • **Ralph Heimlich** participated in a Regional Research Project (NE-170) workshop on the activities of private nonprofit land trusts in preserving agricultural and rural land, in Ithaca, N.Y. • **Heimlich** also discussed two papers on outdoor recreation economics at a meeting of the Southern Natural Resource Economics Committee, in Knoxville, Tenn. • **Kenneth Krupa** participated in a Grazing Lands Forum meeting on "Research and Education Needs," in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. • **Betsey Kuhn** spoke on Federal agricultural policy at a seminar on the "Economics and Politics of Pesticide Reduction," at the University of California, Berkeley • **Richard Nehring** spoke on "Alternative Environmental Policies and Input Substitution in the Corn Belt: Implications for

Policy and Income Distribution," at the University of Laval, Qué.

• **Merritt Padgitt** and **Robbin Shoemaker** participated in enumerator training for the 1990 agricultural chemical survey of vegetable producers, in New Orleans, La. • and **Parveen Setia** presented a paper, "Implications of Policies that Restrict the Use of Selected Pesticides in the United States" (coauthored with Kenneth Algozin, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), at a research conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, in San Francisco, Calif.

Data Services Center

Jack Angle presented a paper, "Putting the Inequality Process to Work" and **Agapi Somwaru** presented a paper, "Technical Efficiency of Corn/Soybean Farms in the United States" (coauthored with **Richard Nehring**, RTD), at a joint meeting of the Institute of Management Sciences and Operations Research Society of America, in Philadelphia, Pa. • **Somwaru** also presented a paper, "Cross-Country Comparisons of

Technical Progress and Efficiency Gains in EC Agriculture" (coauthored with **Eldon Ball** and **Hyunok Lee**, RTD), at a World Bank conference in Washington, D.C. • **Charles Hallahan** presented a paper, "An Update on PC-Based Statistical Packages," at a Washington Operations Research Management Science Council meeting, in Arlington, Va. • and **Hallahan** also spoke on a window-based graphics toolkit using SAS/IML, at a Northeast SAS Users Group conference in Boston, Mass.

Office of the Administrator

John Lee participated in a Board for International Food and Agricultural Development Workshop, "The U.S. Agricultural Science and Education System and International Development," in Minneapolis, Minn.; in an American Agricultural Economics Association Foundation Governing Board meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.; and in State Rural Development Council meetings in Columbia, S.C., Topeka, Kans., and Austin, Tex.